

ATTY Docket No.: 60,130-925
98UK005**REMARKS**

Claims 1-24 and 26-46 are pending. In the Final Office Action mailed on January 25, 2002, the Examiner allowed claims 8, 9, 15 and 16 and rejected claims 1-7, 10-14, 18-24, 26-28, 30-32, 35-38 and 40-46. The Examiner further objected to claims 17, 29, 33, 34 and 39. Applicant submits that each of its claims is allowable and requests the Examiner to reconsider his position. Applicant further requests that the Examiner enter the above amendment, which narrows issues for appeal.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS
CLAIMS 17, 29, 33, 34 AND 39

As a preliminary matter, Applicant has amended claims 17, 29, 33, 34 and 39 to address the issues raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, with respect to claim 17, Applicant has changed the word "fast" to "fastened." While "fast" has as a definition "fastened", Applicant has amended claim 17 to address any ambiguity. Claim 17 is thus in condition for allowance. As to claims 29, 33, 34 and 39, the Examiner objected to these claims as dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant has placed claims 29, 33 and 39 in independent form to include each of the limitations of the claims upon which they depend. These claims stand in condition for allowance. In addition, claim 34 depends on claim 33 and is also thus allowable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §112
CLAIMS 31, 42 AND 43

The Examiner rejected claims 31, 42 and 43 based on "insufficient antecedent basis". Although the Examiner does not so state, presumably, claim 43 was rejected

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based on its dependence to claim 42. By amendment, Applicant has cured the cited deficiencies and overcome this rejection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §102(b)
CLAIMS 1-21, 30-32

Previously, Applicant amended claim 1 to include the limitation “wherein the at least one lock link is mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of the link.” [Claim 1 (*emphasis added*)]. The Examiner holds that “to move the pawl the at least one lock link must be moved.” However, movement of pawl (23) of *Ursel et al.* ('003) does not “necessarily” or always result in movement of link (33, 32). Indeed, as shown in Figure 1, pawl (23) has arm (26), which does not “necessarily” move link (33, 32) when moved. There is, in fact, a considerable range of rotational movement of pawl (23) and arm (26) shown in Figure 1 before arm (26) contacts projection 29 associated with link (32, 33). Moreover, projection 29 is part of unblocking lever (27, 28), which themselves have “joints 31 at which an actuating arm 32 for the outside door handle 13 and an actuating arm 33 for the inside door handle 14 are articulated so as to be moveable within limits.” [*Ursel et al.* '003, Column 2, ll 63-66]. As this text and the figures illustrate, movement of pawl (23) does not “necessarily” result in movement of links (32, 33) in contrast to the present invention. This distinction is important for the additional connections between pawl and links of *Ursel et al.* results in a more complicated assembly than Applicant's invention. Because *Ursel* fails to teach the limitation “necessarily”, Claim 1 and its dependents, claims 2-21 and 30-32, are allowable over the cited reference. If the Examiner believes this function could be clarified by additional language, he is invited to telephone Applicant's representative. However, Applicant believes the claims as pending defines around the art.

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98UK005**CLAIMS 22-24, 35-38, AND 40-43**

Independent claim 22 requires a "a cam having a single plane profile". The Examiner reads *Ursel* as showing a "cam having a single plane profile". However, *Ursel* shows a cam having two plane profiles (47, 48), not only one plane profile as required by the limitation "single". Accordingly, claim 22 and dependent claims 23-24, 35-38, and 40-43 are allowable over the cited reference.

CLAIMS 26-28 AND 44-46

Claims 26-27, are allowable over *Ursel*. While *Ursel* may arguably disclose the use of more than one latch mechanism, it does not disclose or provide an enabling disclosure for differing control of the power actuators to effect differing operating modes for multiple latch mechanisms. Indeed, the sole reference in *Ursel* to doors (11) illustrates only a single door. *Ursel* fails to teach "a first and second door" with "first and second latch mechanisms" and "control of the power actuators being different". Accordingly, claims 26-27 are allowable.

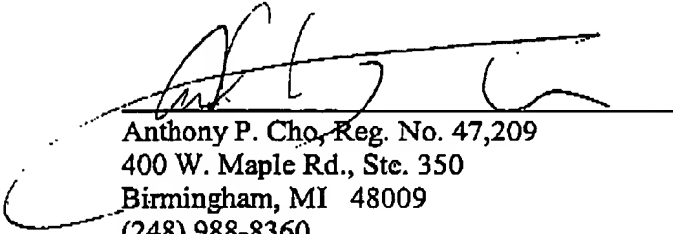
For much the same reason, claim 28 and its dependents, claims 44-46, are also allowable. Again, differing control to provide for different first and second sets of operating modes for substantially the same latch mechanisms is simply not disclosed in the cited references.

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Applicant hereby requests allowance of claims 1-7, 10-14, 17-24, and 26-46.

Respectfully submitted,

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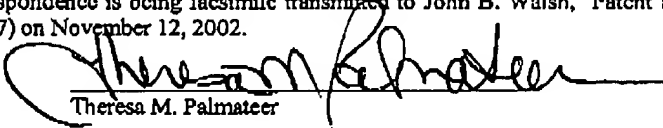
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APPENDIX A
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE CLAIMS

17. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 16 in which the power actuator drives the cam such that an abutment on the cam operatively co-acts with an abutment fastened with the pawl to release the latch mechanism.

29. (Amended) A latch mechanism including a housing, a pawl movably mounted in the housing to release a latch, at least one of an inside and outside lock link mounted so as to be movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl wherein the at least one lock link is mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of the link [A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1] wherein the at least one lock link is mounted for rotation about a common first axis with the pawl.

31. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 30 wherein the rotation of the at least one lock link about the second axis occurs relative to [the] a pawl lifter.

33. (Amended) A latch mechanism including a housing, a pawl movably mounted in the housing to release a latch, at least one of an inside and outside lock link mounted so as to be movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which

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operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl wherein the at least one lock link is mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of the link [A latch mechanism as defined in claim 32] wherein the inside and outside lock links are both mounted for rotation about a common first axis with the pawl.

39. (Amended) A latch mechanism having a set of operating modes, each mode having alternate states, the set including at least one of a lock mode and a super lock mode, and at least one of a child safety mode and a release mode, changing of the latch mechanism between alternate states of each of the at least two modes of the set being effected by a single power actuator wherein a cam having a single plane profile is driven by the actuator to select the states, further comprising at least one of an inside and outside lock link movable by the cam between a first position representing a first of the alternate states and a second position representing a second of the alternate states [A latch mechanism as defined in claim 35] in which the cam includes at least two cam lobes which position the at least one lock link in one of the first and second positions, with the at least two cam lobes being separated by a cam valley which positions the at least one lock link in the other of the first and second positions.

42. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 35 wherein [the] a release member is capable of indexing the cam to move at least one of the lock links between the first and second positions.

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